

# IRELAND UNDER THE NORMANS

1216-1333

BY

GODDARD HENRY ORPEN

LATE SCHOLAR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN  
EDITOR OF 'THE SONG OF DERMO<sup>T</sup> AND THE EARL'  
MEMBER OF THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY

VOLS. III AND IV

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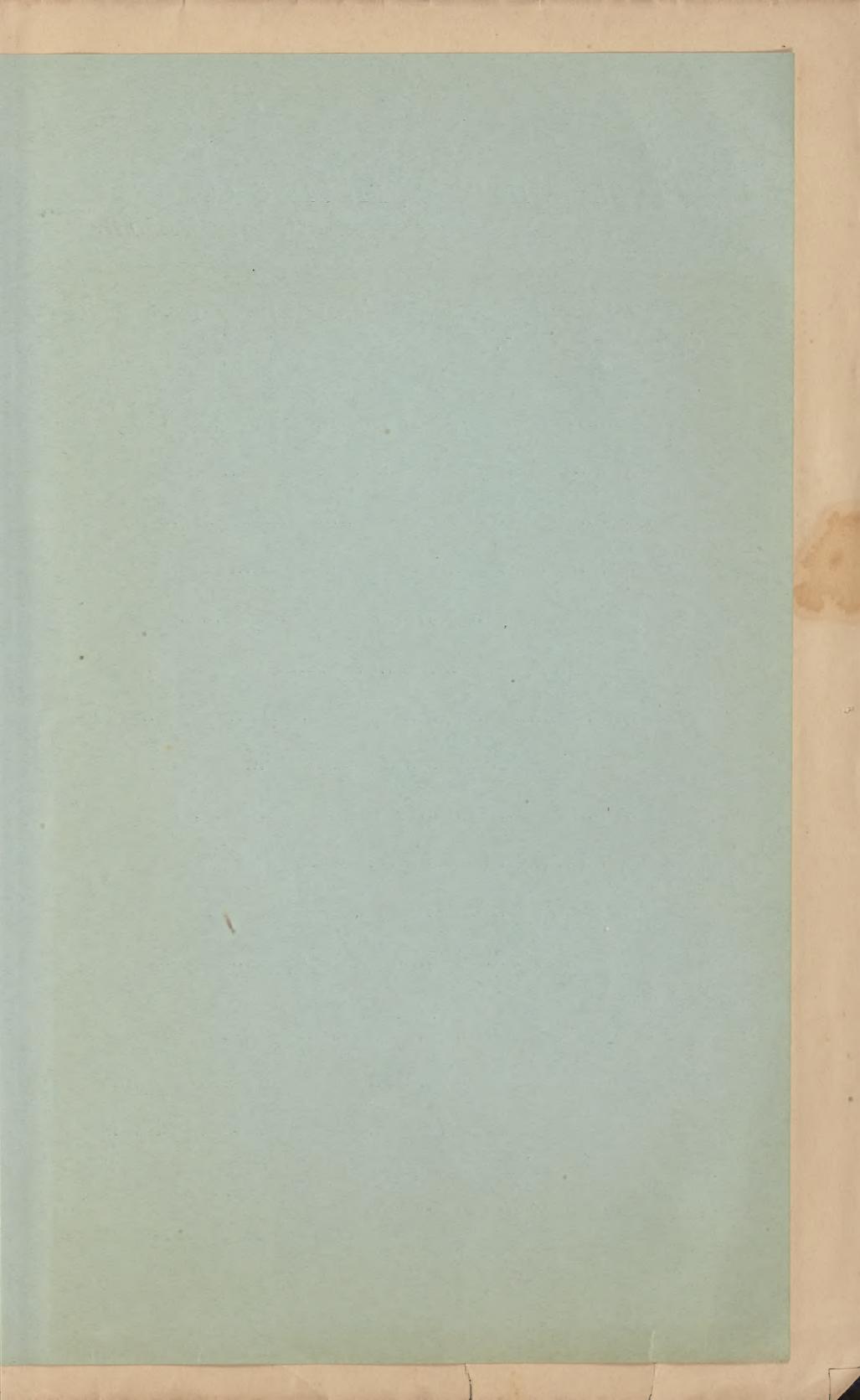
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IRISH

## CONTENTS

	VOL. III	PAGE
<b>CHIEF GOVERNORS DURING THE REIGN OF HENRY III</b>		<b>PAGE</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>		
XXIV. THE MINORITY OF HENRY III: 1216-26	15	
XXV. THE SONS OF WILLIAM MARSHAL: 1219-45	49	
XXVI. THE PARTITION OF LEINSTER: 1247.	79	
A Note on the Authorities . . . . .	108	
XXVII. THE GERALDINES IN MUNSTER: THIRTEENTH CENTURY . . . . .	111	
XXVIII. THE CONQUEST OF CONNAUGHT: 1224-37	158	
XXIX. THE SUB-INFEUDATION OF CONNAUGHT: 1237 AND AFTERWARDS . . . . .	190	
XXX. THE O'CONORS AND 'THE KING'S CANTREDS' IN CONNAUGHT: 1235-74 . . . . .	225	
XXXI. THE EARLDOM OF ULSTER: 1227-71	254	
XXXII. HENRY III: 1216-72 . . . . .	291	
 <b>VOL. IV</b>		
<b>CHIEF GOVERNORS OF IRELAND, 1272-1333</b>		<b>5</b>
XXXIII. EDWARD I AND HIS JUSTICIARS: 1272- 1307 . . . . .	8	
XXXIV. THE NORMANS IN THOMOND . . . . .	53	
XXXV. O'CONORS, DE BURGHS, AND FITZ GERAUDS IN CONNAUGHT: 1274-1315 . . . . .	107	
XXXVI. THE EARLDOM OF ULSTER: 1271-1315 .	130	
XXXVII. THE INVASION OF EDWARD BRUCE: 1315- 1318 . . . . .	160	
XXXVIII. THE EBBING TIDE: 1318-33 . . . . .	207	
XXXIX. ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY YEARS OF NOR- MAN RULE: 1173-1333 . . . . .	250	
<b>ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA TO VOLUMES I AND II</b>		<b>307</b>
<b>INDEX</b>		<b>316</b>
<b>MAP OF IRELAND, c. 1300.</b>		

APPENDICES TO VOL. III AND IV. The Seignory of Cork with a Pedigree of the Carews. Ancestors of the Fitz Geraldts, Earls of Desmond, and of the Fitz Maurices, Barons of Kerry and Lixnaw. The Mac Carthys of Desmond. Pedigree of Maic Somhairle. De Lacy Pedigree, showing the Devolution of Meath. Account of Henry de Mandeville, custos of Twescard, 1262. Clan Turlough and Clan Brian Roe. The Death of Thomas de Clare. The Castles of Bunratty and Quin. Pedigree of the descendants of Turlough Mór O'Conor who were kings of Connaught 1156-1345. Pedigree of the Barons of Offaly. Pedigree of the House of de Burgh.



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## FOUR IRISH LANDSCAPE PAINTERS

Of the four painters dealt with in this finely-illustrated and got-up volume George Barret (1732—(?)—1784), one of the first members of the society of Painters in Water-Colours, was noted for his atmospheric effects; J. A. O'Connor (1792—1841) belonged to the romantic school of landscape painting and excelled in moonlight scenes; W. F. Osborne (1859—1903) painted portraits, shipping groups, &c., as well as pure landscape; Nathaniel Hone (1831—1917) was of the family of the well-known eighteenth century artist of the same name, was a companion of the Barbizon masters, Millet and Corot, and drew his subjects from many lands, being a great traveller. He was especially fond of Egyptian scenes. Besides its twenty-six most attractive reproductions this book gives in appendices a bibliography and a number of important lists of the works, exhibits, &c., of the painters of which it treats.—*Times Literary Supplement.*

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It is long since a work so elaborately conceived and so thoroughly complete in every detail as this stately volume has left the hands of an Irish publisher. The plan of the book is as perfect as its scope would allow it to be, and in what must have been a very tedious task, the author has been ably seconded by his printers. In all its aspects it bears the impress of painstaking thoroughness; and it is to be hoped that those who can afford to show their appreciation of its artistic merits and of the rare interest of its contents, will not be slow to do so.

The four noted landscapists whose careers and work are here surveyed were all Dubliners by birth. Two of them—Osborne and Hone—survived till our own times and still hold a place in the memory of the people. Barret and O'Connor, on the other hand, belonged to dead generations, and are now wholly forgotten in their native city except amongst a faithful few who are art enthusiasts.

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when the Normans came was hardly alive. We have noted Ireland's gain by this new channel in trade and agriculture, in architecture and ecclesiastical organization, but it was still more manifest in the whole scheme of civil government, legislative, executive, and judicial. Norman rule in Ireland, in short, marks the introduction into a country which had never been through the school of Roman domination, of ideas of state-governance and organization which, as developed in the British Isles, have become the model for all the free governments of the world, and which in final analysis humanity owes to Imperial Rome.

We have now touched on some of the more important results of early Norman rule in Ireland. They constitute a great and rapid advance on the lines of mediaeval progress. Viewed broadly and as a whole, the thirteenth century was a great period in the history of Ireland, great in its performance and even greater in its promise. A new and greater Ireland was being developed, an Ireland fitted to co-operate in all that was making England great and to share in her greatness.

Why this  
progress  
was not  
main-  
tained.

Not due  
to the  
character  
of the  
conquest.

But why, it will be asked, was this progress not maintained and this promise not fulfilled? or rather, why was there a marked retrogression from some of the points attained? For a full answer to this question a study in detail of the next two centuries would be a necessary preliminary. But already we can see in operation some of the causes of failure. In the first place, however, it may be remarked that the cause is not to be found in any special iniquity in the conquest as such. Even up to our own times in Europe there has been no general agreement as to the ethics of conquest, and in the twelfth century the blessed words 'democracy' and 'self-determination' were

# IRELAND UNDER THE NORMANS

## *Some Reviews of Volumes I and II*

*The Times Literary Supplement.*—‘Mr. Orpen has a fascinating subject, and has done justice to it. . . . It is not easy to over-estimate the labour that must have been devoted to establishing these conclusions, or the scrupulous accuracy, the immense bibliographical knowledge, the assiduous collation and verification of texts and references evinced in every page of this extraordinarily valuable and scholarly work. . . . Mr. Orpen is the first scholar who has written a worthy history of the Norman Conquest of Ireland. He has brought a wealth of learning and acute criticism to bear upon it, and we shall not be contented till he completes his work by carrying the history onwards to the decay of the Norman power in the fourteenth century. No one but he could have written such a history as this; and none but he can complete it.’

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